

Department of Speech, Language, Hearing Sciences **2024 MS SLP Strategic Plan: Executive Summary**

The MS SLP Strategic Plan has been extended through 2024 (from 2022).

A two-year extension captures the program's lifecycle from startup to one of growth and development.

Vision: Graduate reflective practitioners who serve diverse populations in the clinics and classrooms of the future.

Mission: Provide a diverse urban population with an inclusive graduate program committed to the interprofessional education and cultural responsiveness of students seeking clinical certification in speech-language pathology (SLP).

Focus Area 1: Program Advancement

Long-term goal: Offer a Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology degree that is awarded initial accreditation by the Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology.

- Outcome 1.1: Submit successful Level III: 2nd & 3rd Candidacy Annual Progress Reports.
- Outcome 1.2: Complete self-study of MS SLP program as basis of Application for Initial Accreditation.

Update: Recognized with candidacy (pre-accreditation) status by the CAA in May 2021. Program launched in June 2022. Level III: 2nd Candidacy Annual Progress Reports approved by CAA in, 2023. Application for Initial Accreditation on track for August 2025 submission.

Focus Area 2: Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Initiatives

Long-term goal: Promote equity for minority populations with communication disorders/differences by diversifying the SLP workforce.

- Outcome 2.1: Recruit and retain students from underrepresented backgrounds.
- Outcome 2.2: Apply for extramural grants and cultivate major donor fundraising to support program/students.

Update: Of our current & former students (n=48), 38% are students of color; 38% speak two or more languages and 35% are first gen. 100% of students in first two cohorts received funding. During 23-24 AY, received \$100k in grants and ~\$45K in donations to support clinical programming.

Focus Area 3: Community Engagement

Long-term goal: Cultivate internal and external partnerships to promote opportunities for collaborative learning.

- Outcome 3.1: Design and refine interprofessional education experiences with other university programs that prepare students for careers in education, health and/or human services.
- Outcome 3.2: Expand campus and community-based clinical training experiences
- Outcome 3.3: Identify strategies to sustain engagement of community partners.

Update: Bookhardt Family Speech-Language clinic has served ~130 individuals across the lifespan. Offered community-based clinical training experiences at area early-learning centers, private practices, hospitals, home healthcare, and schools. Screened 600+ children in the Denver Metro area with subsequent referrals for evaluation and/or treatment. Implemented clinical swallowing evaluations using standardized patients in collaboration with the Department of Nursing. Established partnerships with ~40 external partners to promote collaborative learning in Colorado.